

**Readington Township
Environmental Commission Meeting
Minutes
April 2, 2019**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hendrickson at 7:37 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

Members in Attendance

Neil Hendrickson
Jerry Cook
Christina Albrecht
Jonathan Heller
Robert Becker
Judith Tutela
Liz Duffy

Members Absent

Steve Foster
Jason Giroud
Todd Terricone

Minutes

Mr. Becker moved, and Mr. Heller seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for March 5, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

LOI/Freshwater Wetlands

Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation Line Verification- Merck & Co. – Block 4 Lot 4.01, and Block 2.01 Lot 9 - Noted
Flood Hazard Area and Freshwater Wetlands General Permit No. 10 – Culvert R-167 for Barley Sheaf Road - Noted

AOC (Areas of Concern)

Suspected Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification- 384 Route 22- Oil leak - Noted
Block 47, Lot 1.01, 6 Shade Lane- 550- gallon #2 Heating Oil Underground Storage Tank- No Further Action- Noted

Correspondence

NJDEP letter dated 2/19/19 -Draft Surface Water Major Modification Permit Action- Route 78 Office Area
NJDEP letter dated 3/14/19 – Clarification of Facility Address-Reissuance of Draft Surface Water Major Mod Permit Action- Route 78 Office Area-Noted

Ms. Albrecht moved, and Mr. Heller seconded a motion to have the secretary prepare a letter to the DEP and send to the Township Committee to request a public hearing in response to the letter received dated 2/19/19 regarding the Draft Surface Water Major Modification Permit Action. The motion carried unanimously.

It was also noted that Chair Hendrickson would reach out to the Chair of the Tewksbury Environmental Commission to further discuss.

It was noted that the letter should be sent as soon as possible because there is a deadline. Mr. Cook also requested a copy of the letter to provide it to the Trout Unlimited Group that he is a member of.

Susan Masinda of 10 Meadow Road was present and had a letter from the DEP regarding the denial of C-1 status of Rockaway Creek from 2003 noting that the main reason for the denial by the DEP was the absence of year of young class trout.

Other Business

Arbor Day-It was noted that the tree seedling giveaway flyer would also connect to Arbor Day. Mr. Heller noted that the state nursery would be willing to accept hickory nuts and provide hickory saplings in return. It was also suggested that as part of the tree seedling giveaway to collect hickory nuts. It would be a great project for the scouts and would be an opportunity to gain points for the Sustainable NJ certification.

Drive Green NJ- Mr. Becker explained that there is grant money available for car charging stations. Mr. Becker noted that he would prepare a grant for a charging station at the municipal building. Ms. Duffy suggested the parking lot at the train station as another possible location.

Mr. Heller moved, and Ms. Tutela seconded a motion to have Mr. Becker pursue the preparation of a grant for a car charging station. The motion carried unanimously.

Sustainable NJ – Mr. Becker explained that he has been reviewing the Township’s submission from 2016 and noted that everything has to be updated. He will be working with the other committees. There are many areas where things have been done that has not been submitted. He is optimistic that the Township will be able to move up to silver status. Mr. Becker also explained that some of the things required need ordinances to document. The existing ordinance for the Sustainable Land Use Pledge is one that needs to be redone. Mr. Becker will send it out to the committee for review. He also noted that the Natural Resource Inventory needs to be updated and any actions over the past 4 years need to be documented. This document will be located and added to the agenda for next month’s meeting for further discussion.

Wildlife Advisory Committee Update – Mr. Heller noted that the revised Deer Hunting Proposal will be on the Township Committee Agenda for the April 15th meeting.

Ms. Albrecht offered to stop in at the secretary’s office to help locate the Environmental Commission meeting box.

Mr. Becker suggested that a projector and computer be brought to meetings going forward so that they can look at maps on the large screen.

Review of Tree Ordinance - It was noted that a meeting of the Tree Advisory would be scheduled to start to work on reviewing this ordinance. Mr. Becker noted that previous discussions recommended that the focus be on commercial property controls.

There was also discussion of the procedure that JCP&L follows when cutting down trees. It was noted that it is believed that they are supposed to advise the Township public works department prior to cutting anything down. Mr. Heller will follow up with public works regarding this issue.

Michael Jones of 33 Oakland Drive West was present and discussed whether the tree ordinance should also include more detailed requirements to protect trees in regards to large scale parcels noting that other issues need to be considered other than just the number of trees such as how much is in native stand and how much helps to buffer low or high spots on the terrain.

Ms. Duffy noted that the Planning Board and Zoning Board do everything to the best of their ability to attempt to save trees in development plans where practically possible.

Chair Hendrickson noted that this is the reason for the need for the Tree Advisory Subcommittee to address these issues and concerns.

Scout Projects- a specific volunteer request was received from a scout. It was noted that he will help at the tree seedling giveaway.

DEP Grant Webinars- Mr. Becker stated that there are grants available from the DEP. He will attend a webinar to learn more about submitting the grants. Some ideas of possible grant ideas were discussed.

Ms. Tutela explained that she is preparing the grant for the pollinator gardens to submit to ANJEC. She noted that she would request the required letter from Vita authorizing the grant. The deadline for submission is April 15th.

Ms. Duffy moved, and Mr. Heller seconded a motion to submit the grant application to ANJEC for the pollinators and utilize the Environmental Commission's funds as directed in the application. The motion carried unanimously. It was noted that the dollar amount to be used is \$575.00

Site Plan Review- PMG Retail LLC (Quick Chek)- Due to the late hour, it was determined that a special meeting would be noticed and scheduled for April 16th to review the site plan in more detail.

Public Comment

Michael Jones of 33 Oakland Drive West was present and noted that he and other residents on Baneberry Drive have concern about intrusion on wetlands by Hionis Greenhouse and requested that the Environmental Commission follow up with the DEP regarding this property.

Alan Schnur of 8 Baneberry Drive was also present and expressed the same concerns as Mr. Jones and noted that it is very wet in the back of his property and is currently a mess.

Mr. Heller asked the residents to send any information that they had to the Environmental Commission so that they can further investigate.

Adjournment

It was the consensus of the committee members to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Ann Marie Lehberger

Secretary to the Environmental Commission